

made for attendance at the delivery of cases all during the week.

The cancer clinic will present the subject of cancer, its early diagnosis, pathology, and treatment, from the great number of illustrative cases and will be followed by a demonstration of cancer surgery.

The pathologic department will hold an interesting clinical pathology conference.

The x-ray department will demonstrate the use of radium, radiation, and x-ray.

LETTERS

Concerning the fight against syphilis.*

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

December 5, 1936.

To the Editor:—You are quite aware that since Doctor Parran has assumed the office of Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service one of his outstanding objectives is to educate the public in regard to syphilis and its complications. One of the plans of the United States Public Health Service, under the Social Security program, is the conducting of a campaign that would be nation-wide for the eradication and treatment of those afflicted with syphilis.

The Department of Public Relations of the California Medical Association is commencing to receive inquiries from lay individuals as to where they may obtain dependable information and literature upon the subject. The Committee on Public Relations is preparing, after consultation with competent members of the profession, a bibliography that may be sent to these inquiring individuals. As far as the education of the public is concerned, this committee feels that the public will gain their educational information through the activities of the United States Public Health Service and the Social Security Administration. We, however, feel that a very serious problem arises with regard to the members of our profession and their competency to recognize as well as treat this affliction. We feel that there has been a lack of professional training and education due to more or less apathy on the part of educators and the prudery of the public press as well as society. Now when the attempt is being made to educate the public, if physicians are not brought up to a level of competency and do not provide adequate care for those who consult them they will be laying themselves liable to suits for malpractice.

To that end the committee feels that organized medicine must make a very effective effort to enlighten and instruct the members of the profession.

In the November, 1936, issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine* there is a very splendid review of recent literature and an excellent discussion of the entire question of syphilis, prepared by Doctors Padget and Moore of Baltimore.

Several of the members of this committee feel that it would be most helpful if CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE were, in two or three issues, to reproduce this summary for the benefit of our members. We also feel that in each issue in the department of Bedside Medicine there should be a sustained or consecutive series of articles written by competent men for the education of our public.

I am sending these suggestions to you as chairman of the Committee on Public Relations, and respectfully request that you initiate these suggestions in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

The committee is willing to be of all assistance possible. If we can be helpful to you, please call on us.

Sincerely yours,

C. A. DUKES, M. D.

* See editorial comment in this issue, page 3.

Concerning reporting of syphilis and gonorrhea.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
WASHINGTON

November 16, 1936.

To Coöperating Health Officers:

During the last few years, health officers and others interested in the control of syphilis and gonorrhea have heard much regarding the development of an efficient system of reporting these diseases. The Public Health Service has been requested to institute studies aimed at the improvement of morbidity reports for syphilis and gonorrhea. Meanwhile, it is highly desirable to continue the old system of collecting morbidity reports, which has been in use in health departments for a decade or more.

Attention is invited to the large number of health departments which fail to submit morbidity reports to the Public Health Service at the present time. When the plan of publishing morbidity reports for syphilis and gonorrhea in cities with a population of 200,000 or more was instituted about ten months ago, practically all of the cities submitted reports. Considerable correspondence has been held with health departments since that time in which attempts have been made to encourage reporting. In spite of this, the present monthly statement indicates a grave lack of interest. From a study of the statements which are presented herewith, one gains the impression that the extent to which such reports are made varies in direct proportion to the interest and initiative of the health officers in the various states and cities.

By direction of the Surgeon-General.

Respectfully,

R. A. VONDERLEHR,
Assistant Surgeon-General, Division of
Venereal Diseases.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

State health officers' monthly statement of venereal diseases reported. For the month of September, 1936.

This statement is issued monthly for the information of health officers in order to furnish current data as to the prevalence of the venereal diseases. The following reports were received from state health officers. The figures are preliminary and subject to correction. It is hoped that this will stimulate more complete reporting of these diseases.

| | Syphilis | | Gonorrhea | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | Cases Reported During Month | Monthly Case Rates Per 10,000 Population | Cases Reported During Month | Monthly Case Rates Per 10,000 Population |
| California | 1,358 | 2.41 | 1,484 | 2.63 |
| Total (all states) .. | 22,087 | 1.86 | 15,101 | 1.27 |

Monthly statement of venereal diseases reported in California cities with populations of 200,000 or over. For the month of September, 1936.

| | Syphilis | | Gonorrhea | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | Cases Reported During Month | Monthly Case Rates Per 10,000 Population | Cases Reported During Month | Monthly Case Rates Per 10,000 Population |
| Los Angeles | 361 | 2.52 | 368 | 2.57 |
| Oakland | 36 | 1.19 | 55 | 1.81 |
| San Francisco | | | | |

* No report for current month.

Concerning acknowledgment of Widney reprint.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
DIVISION OF ACCESSIONS
WASHINGTON

To the Editor:—By direction of the librarian, I beg to acknowledge with cordial appreciation the receipt from you of the gift mentioned below, a welcome addition to the collections of the Library of Congress.

Very truly yours,

FAUSTON DOWNIS,
Acting Chief, Division of Accessions.

A copy of: "Joseph Pomeroy Widney, . . . Founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association and of the College of Medicine of the University of Southern California, civic worker and author; some biographical notes on a colleague, who, at the age of 95, still 'carries on.' By E. T. W."